

Appl. No. 09/663,551  
Amdt. dated August 1, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of May 14, 2003

PATENT

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Torres, U.S. Patent 5,384,910 in view of Le Blanc, U.S. Patent 5,977,968.

The Office Action cited Torres in combination with Le Blanc against claims 1-19. Particularly, the Office Action indicated that Torres did not recite the elements of "independently reconfiguring the shape of the subsection of the graphical user interface in a plurality of user desired configurations in response to operation of the control by the user" that element was taught by Le Blanc. However, the Le Blanc reference really fails to apply to the claimed embodiments of the Applicant's invention.

Namely, the Le Blanc reference is related to altering an indicator in response to an input to a computer program. For example, the Le Blanc reference discusses indicating a user's mood through an image of a face showing a frown, a neutral expression, or a smile. In response to the user moving a cursor, the user's mood is conveyed as an input to the program being run. In response, the program being run displays a new expression on the face. Thus, in actuality, the program being run by the computer generates the change in the icon displayed on the computer. [It fails to teach that the presentation of the icon can be controlled by the user without inputting a control signal to the underlying software program being controlled by the user.]

The claimed embodiments of the invention in the current application, in fact, allow a user to control the configuration of the graphical user interface itself without inputting a command signal to the program being controlled by the graphical computer interface. This allows the user to choose the shape of the graphical user interface without inputting a control signal to the underlying software program. In the case of a skin used for audio programs, this is beneficial in that it allows the user to choose the desired presentation of the graphical user interface as explained in the specification.

Therefore, claims 1, 2, 14, and 19 have been amended to more clearly recite the Applicant's claimed embodiments of the invention. All of these amended claims now recite that the shape of the graphical user interface can be altered with a control "while not directing the program controlled by said graphical user interface on how to perform." Furthermore, claim 1

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has been amended to include "for control of a program" in a preamble so as to more clearly recite the intended use of the graphical user interface. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to delete the phrase "during use by said user", again to more clearly present the claimed embodiment of the invention. Claim 2 has similarly been amended to delete the phrase "during use". Furthermore, claim 2 has been amended to recite "a user" rather than "said user" in case the presence of a user was not clearly understood by the phrase "graphical user interface." Furthermore, claim 14 has been amended to delete the phrase "during use" and to recite "a user" rather than "said user" to more clearly recite the claimed embodiment of the invention. Finally, claim 19 has been amended to refer to "a user" rather than "said user", again to more clearly recite the claimed embodiments of the invention.

In view of the fact that the Le Blanc reference fails to teach that a control for a graphical user interface can be used to reconfigure the graphical user interface "while not directing the program controlled by said graphical user interface on how to perform" it is believed that claims 1-19 are in condition for allowance.

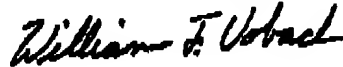
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PATENTCONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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